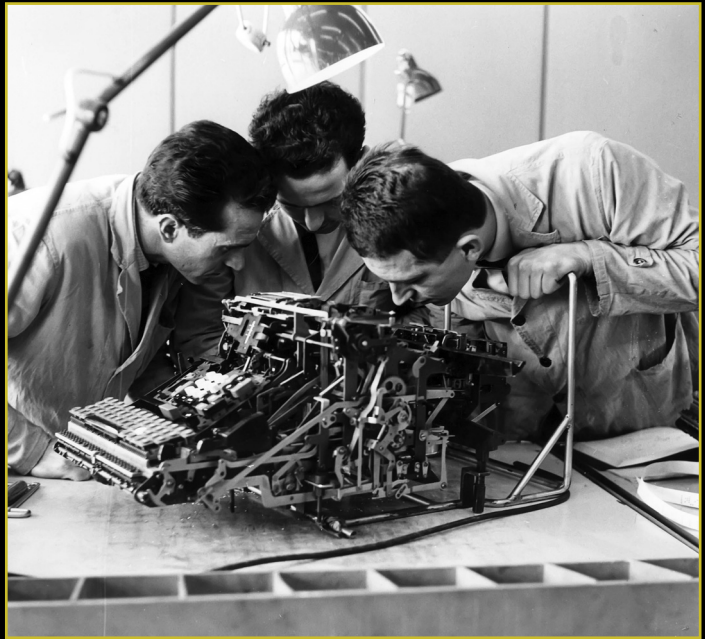


WORKERS AND OBSOLESCENCE

I  
L  
W  
C  
H



©Copyright ILO/ Unidentified Photographer

Number 102  
Fall 2022



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

# INTERNATIONAL LABOR AND WORKING-CLASS HISTORY

Founded by  
Robert F. Wheeler

---

## SENIOR EDITORS

Kate Brown  
*Massachusetts Institute  
of Technology, Cambridge*

Marjoleine Kars  
*University of Maryland  
Baltimore County (UMBC)*

Marcel van der Linden  
*International Institute of  
Social History, Amsterdam*

## REVIEW EDITOR

Joshua Frens-String  
*University of Texas at Austin*

## MANAGING EDITOR

Izzy Plowright  
*Columbia University*

Franco Barchiesi  
*Ohio State University*

Aaron Benanav  
*Syracuse University*

Carolyn Brown  
*Rutgers University*

Jacob Eyferth  
*University of Chicago*

Lori Flores  
*Stony Brook University*

Jennifer Klein  
*Yale University*

Talitha LeFlouria  
*University of Texas at Austin*

Mae Ngai  
*Columbia University*

## EDITORIAL BOARD

Mary Nolan  
*New York University*

Prasannan Parthasarathi  
*Boston College*

Amy Stanley  
*Northwestern University*

Abosedo George  
*Columbia University*

Barbara Weinstein  
*New York University*

Peter Winn  
*Tufts University*

Xiaodan Zhang  
*York College, CUNY*

## EDITORS EMERITUS

Ira Katznelson  
*Columbia University*

---

*International Labor and Working-Class History* (ISSN 0147-5479) is published twice yearly, in the spring and the fall, by Cambridge University Press for the editors of *ILWCH*. Annual subscription rates for Numbers 101 and 102, Spring and Fall (2022): Institutional subscription rates, print and online: US \$267 in the USA, Canada, and Mexico; UK £166 + VAT elsewhere. Institutional subscription rate, online only: US \$203 in the USA, Canada, and Mexico; UK £125 + VAT elsewhere. Institutional subscription rate, print only: US \$250 in the USA, Canada, and Mexico; UK £153 + VAT elsewhere. Prices include surface postage. *International Labor and Working-Class History* is indexed in ABC-CLIO; Alternative Press Index; American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies; America: History and Life; Arts and Humanities Citation Index; Current Contents: Arts and Humanities; Historical Abstracts; Left Index; Middle East: Abstracts and Index; and Sociological Abstracts.

**Editorial Office:** Manuscripts, editorial correspondence, and books for review should be addressed to Managing Editor, *International Labor and Working-Class History*, Columbia University, 1180 Amsterdam Avenue, Box #60, MC: 2569, New York, NY, 10027 USA or via email: [ILWCH@columbia.edu](mailto:ILWCH@columbia.edu)

**Publishing, Subscription, and Advertising Offices:** Cambridge University Press, One Liberty Plaza, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10006. Tel: 1-800-872-7423. Fax: 1-212-337-5959; or Cambridge University Press, University Printing House, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8BS, UK. Tel: +44(0) 223 325806. Fax: +44(0)223 315052. E-mail: [journals\\_marketing@cambridge.org](mailto:journals_marketing@cambridge.org). See also <http://www.cambridge.org>.

Copyright © 2023 International Labor and Working-Class History, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, in any form or by any means, electronic, photocopying or otherwise, without permission in writing from Cambridge University Press. Photocopying information for users in the USA: The Item-Fee Code for this publication (ISSN 0147-5479/15 \$15.00) indicates that copying for internal or personal use beyond that permitted by Sec. 107 or 108 of the US Copyright Law is authorized for duly registered with the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) Transaction Reporting Service, provided that the appropriate remittance of \$15.00 per article is paid directly to: CCC, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923. Specific written permission must be obtained for all other copying.

The Board of Consulting Editors may be found immediately following the contents. See the back inside cover of the journal for information concerning submissions to the journal.

**Cover Image:** *Vocational Training: A firm with a large export quota manufacturing machines of any kind must take interest in the proper maintenance of its product.* Image courtesy of the International Labour Organization. © Copyright International Labour Organization.

---

Special Issue on Workers and Obsolescence <i>Aaron Benanav and Lori Flores</i>	1
---	---

**SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLES**

Never Obsolete: Private Household Workers and the Transaction of Domestic Work <i>Eileen Boris</i>	7
Racialized Obsolescence: Multinational Corporations, Labor Conflict, and the Closure of the Imperial Typewriter Company in Britain, 1974–1975 <i>Matt Myers</i>	23
“Every time, they took more from us”: Privatization and Telecommunications Workers in Rural Argentina, 1969–2000 <i>Edward Brudney</i>	51
Resistance and Resilience: <i>The Nothing Factory</i> and the Workers’ Self-Management of Fateleva <i>Sérgio Dias Branco</i>	64
Mechanical Harvesting, Globalization, and the Fate of Citrus Farmworkers in Florida and São Paulo, 1965–1985 <i>Terrell James Orr</i>	76
Broken Circle: Premature Deindustrialization, Chinese Capital Exports, and the Stumbling Development of New Territorial Industrial Complexes <i>Phillip Neel</i>	94
The Myth of Black Obsolescence <i>Jason Resnikoff</i>	124
Evolving or Disappearing? Italian Trade Unions in the 2010s <i>Emilio Caja</i>	146

## FREE-STANDING ARTICLES

- Intergenerational Learning and Place-making in a Deindustrialized  
Locality: “Tracks of the Past” in Lanarkshire, Scotland  
*Ewan Gibbs, Susan Henderson and Victoria Bianchi* 157
- “We Were Democracy Mad:” Clerical Workers’ Unionism, Antiracism,  
and Feminism at the University of California, Berkeley, 1966–1972  
*Jennifer L. Pierce* 181
- From Corporations to Companies: The Development of Capitalism in  
Maritime Cargo Handling in the Port of Barcelona (ca. 1760–1873)  
*Jordi Ibarz and Brendan J. von Briesen* 200
- “Workers’ Way”: Moments of Labor in Late 1940s Calcutta  
*Prerna Agarwal* 225

## REVIEW ESSAYS

- The Troubled Present and Uncertain Future of Academic Labor  
*Mary Nolan* 248
- Rethinking Political Agency in the Russian Revolution: A View from  
the Russian Empire’s Borderlands  
*Inna Shtakser* 260

## BOARD OF CONSULTING EDITORS

Risto Alapuro  
*University of Helsinki*

Kathryn Amdur  
*Emory University*

Eric Arnesen  
*The George Washington University*

Touraj Atabaki  
*International Institute of Social History,  
Amsterdam*

Joel Beinin  
*Stanford University*

Gerd Callesen  
*Arbejderbevaegelsens Bibliotek og Arkiv,  
Copenhagen*

Jane Caplan  
*St. Antony's College, Oxford*

Frederick Cooper  
*New York University*

Jefferson Cowie  
*Cornell University*

Patrizia Dogliani  
*University of Bologna*

Geoff Eley  
*University of Michigan*

Elizabeth Faue  
*Wayne State University*

Paulo Fontes  
*Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro*

Joshua Freeman  
*CUNY Graduate Center*

John French  
*Duke University*

Patrick Fridenson  
*Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales*

Wendy Z. Goldman  
*Carnegie Mellon University*

Andrew Gordon  
*Harvard University*

Linda Gordon  
*New York University*

Rick Halpern  
*University of Toronto*

Victoria Hattam  
*New School for Social Research*

William P. Jones  
*University of Wisconsin,  
Madison*

Don Kalb  
*Central European University*

Linda Kerber  
*University of Iowa (Emeritus)*

Neville Kirk  
*Manchester Metropolitan University*

Deborah Levenson-Estrada  
*Boston College*

Bruce Levine  
*University of Illinois,  
Champaign-Urbana*

Earl Lewis  
*University of Michigan*

Nelson Lichtenstein  
*University California, Santa  
Barbara*

Mary Jo Maynes  
*University of Minnesota*

Gwendolyn Mink  
*Independent Scholar*

Mary Nash  
*University of Barcelona*

Silke Neunsinger  
*Labour Movement Archives  
and Library, Sweden*

Elizabeth Perry  
*Harvard University*

Anson Rabinbach  
*Princeton University*

Pamela Radcliff  
*University of California, San Diego*

Dilip Simeon  
*Aman Trust*